

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Fiscal Year 2012

Created by Town Meeting in 1983, the Design Review Board provides advisory review of the exterior design of private projects in downtown Amherst and public projects anywhere in Amherst.

The Design Review Board held 12 meetings during FY 12, including a Joint Meeting with the Historical Commission to discuss designs for a new town flag and to recommend a preferred flag design to the Select Board. The number of meetings amounted to a slightly lower number than in FY 11 and a slightly higher number than in FY 10.

Public Projects Reviewed

Cushman Scott Children's Center – The Design Review Board reviewed a plan for a new fence along the front of the property.

Community Field Scoreboard – The Board reviewed a proposed new scoreboard at the softball field, proposed by the Amherst Boosters Club and donated in memory of Vic Keedy, Jr., a longtime Amherst resident and who had worked for 40 years at the UMass food services.

Town Flag – In June 2010, the DRB had received an inquiry from a member of the Select Board regarding the design of a proposed town flag. The DRB agreed to work with the Select Board on this important project.

During FY 11, the DRB reviewed several flag designs that had been submitted by members of the public. After careful consideration, the DRB and the Historical Commission advised the Select Board that working with a professional designer/artist would be a more productive method of developing a design. At the request of a member of the Select Board, local artist, Barry Moser, agreed to work with the Design Review Board and the Historical Commission to develop a design for Amherst's new town flag.

During FY 12 the DRB worked with the Historical Commission and Mr. Moser, through Select Board member, James Wald, and made a recommendation to the Select Board on the design. The design recommended by the DRB and Historical Commission was eventually chosen by the Select Board.

Private Projects (Downtown) Reviewed

The redevelopment and improvement of downtown buildings and sites continued. The following projects and signs, among others, were reviewed in FY 12:

Boltwood Place – The Board continued to work with designers and developers of Boltwood Place, a new mixed-use, LEED-certified building in downtown Amherst, located on a lot behind Judie's Restaurant, with the ground floor occupied by retail/commercial and 12 residential units above. The Board reviewed proposed landscaping, paving, site improvements and the location of the electrical transformer box and advised the applicant and the Planning Board on these issues. The applicant met with and received recommendations from the DRB during FY 11 and FY 12 following up on previous meetings during FY 10.

High Horse Restaurant – The Board reviewed proposed signs, stone façade, metal awning, patio furniture, painting of metal railings and entryway trim for this new downtown restaurant/bar that took the space formerly occupied by the Amherst Brewing Company when ABC moved to University Drive.

Lit Restaurant – The Board reviewed a design for proposed seasonal outdoor dining, including a layout of the seating area and site furniture, for a new restaurant/bar in the Boltwood Walk area.

79 South Pleasant Street – The Board reviewed plans by Amherst College for renovation and an addition to the former First Baptist Church building at the edge of the downtown area. Plans included a newly designed parking area, a new front entry space, landscaping and façade improvements.

Signs, Awnings and Lights – Restaurants including Antonio’s Pizza, Chez Albert, D.P. Dough, the Sub and Pizza, Froyoworld, Arise, The Mini Donut and Fratelli’s Restaurant; Professional Offices, Banks and Businesses including CVS, Eliana’s Barber Shop, Game Central, Rogue Tattoo and Piercing, 35 South Cycle, Left Click, Northampton Cooperative Bank and Kestrel Land Trust.

Other Private Project(s) reviewed at the request of the Planning Board or ZBA

28 Shays Street – The Board reviewed plans to convert a non-conforming single-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling and advised the applicant and the ZBA about the design of the proposed building and site improvements.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Salvon, Chair
Design Review Board